

[REDACTED]
Mohamed SAHNOUN
(Phonetic: sahNOON)

ALGERIA

17A

*Ambassador to the United States
(since November 1984)*

*Addressed as:
Mr. Ambassador*



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Involved for over two decades in either foreign relations or international organizations affairs, Mohamed Sahnoun has been described by US diplomats as a skilled professional and one of Algeria's most distinguished diplomats. Sahnoun is a staunch nationalist and a firm believer in nonalignment but is moderate in his approach to international issues.

Before assuming his current position, he had served as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York since 1982.

Sahnoun has a good working relationship with Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi. He has been a member of the Central Committee of the National Liberation Front, Algeria's sole political party, since 1979.

Sahnoun received his early education in Algeria, and during the late 1950s he pursued university studies in Paris. In the early 1960s he obtained bachelor's and master's degrees in sociology from New York University. During the Algerian struggle for independence (1954-62), Sahnoun was a member of the General Union of Algerian Muslim Students and of the National Liberation Front Federation.

After holding several positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sahnoun was assistant secretary general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) during 1964-73. He subsequently served for two years as assistant secretary general in charge of African affairs at the Arab League. He then held ambassadorial assignments in Bonn (1975-80) and Paris (1980-82). During those tours he was also sent on various missions as Algeria's expert on Africa. Over the years he has represented both his government and the OAU at numerous sessions of the UN General Assembly and has participated in many international conferences.

Sahnoun, who will be 54 on 8 April,

Sahnoun speaks English, French, and German, as well as Arabic. His wife, Hadjira, is a medical doctor specializing in endocrinology. She is living in Algeria with their two children while they continue their schooling. Sahnoun's mother resides with him in Washington.

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